



**Boston Connects, Incorporated**  
**Boston Empowerment Zone**

2201 Washington Street  
Roxbury, MA. 02119

**Board Minutes**  
September 21, 2004

Members Present: George Greenidge-*President*, Gloria Coney-*Clerk*, Joelee Baker-Bey, Joan Wallace-Benjamin, Ralph Cooper, Julia Flashner, Michael Glavin, Elizabeth Miranda, Charlotte Golar Richie, Frederick Umeh and Roberta Williams

Members Absent: Michael Foley-*Treasurer*, Betty Greene, Mark Maloney, Lila Reid, Jayne Talbot, Robert Kinney (*Vice-President*), Larry Mayes, Rev. Roland McCall, Valerie Pruitt

BCI Staff: Shirley Carrington, Sherry O'Brien and Judy Roderick

Guests: Cheryl Snyder

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The meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. by Mr. Greenidge.

Welcome and introductions were made. Mr. George Greenidge gave a special welcome to the new appointed Board member Joan Wallace-Benjamin. Other newly appointed Board members, Larry Mayes and Rev. Roland C. McCall were unable to attend tonight's Board meeting.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** To accept the minutes of June 22, 2004 business meeting

By: Ms. Charlotte Golar Richie

Second: Mr. Mike Foley

Recused: 0

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

**Motion: Carried**

2. **DEPUTY DIRECTORS REPORT:**

Ms. Shirley Carrington, Deputy Director gave a detailed report on BCI's on-going program activities, upcoming procurements and other activities. The following programs are currently operating: Micro-Lending/Technical Assistance, GED Programs and the Community and at South Bay Correctional facility, Community Technology, Family Opportunity Networks, (FON's), Reintegration Case Management Services for Ex-Offenders, Skills Training in Rehabilitation programs, Skills Training in six community programs, and Skills Training through contracts with the three Career Centers.

In the absence of Mr. Kinney, Ms. Carrington reported that the Ex-Offender Committee has met several times over the summer. The committee is working on several projects for the coming year. The projects include: ongoing CORI Workshops for the fall and spring of 2005, an Ex-Offender Summit in June 2005 and the Self Employment RFP. The committee also met with Northeastern University's Department of Race and Justice. Northeastern has applied for a funding from the Public Safety Commission to conduct research in the City of Boston on the effectiveness of the coordination of services to ex-offenders leaving the city, county and state correctional institutions. If Northeastern is funded they will target Empowerment Zone in their research.



### **Upcoming Procurements**

Ms. Carrington announced that the Child Care Quality Improvement Grants RFP was released on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Responses are due October 18<sup>th</sup>. The Fatherhood RFP will be released on or about October 1, 2004.

### **Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2005.

Hampton Inn and Suites at Crosstown has been reserved for the event.

Ms. Carrington invited Board members to give input into the program design for the Annual Meeting. Board members suggested that "Save the Date" cards be sent out for the Annual meeting. .

### **Board Elections**

Ms. Carrington reported on the status of the 2004 Board of Director's election to be held in Districts, 1 5,6,and 11. The election is scheduled to be held on Saturday, November 13, 2004 from 10:00AM until 4:00PM. Announcements to recruit community Board members were placed in several community newspapers for four consecutive weeks. Nomination papers were due from interested candidates by September 20, 2004. Although several calls were received from interested community residents, none of the callers lived in a district where elections are being held.

As of the September 20<sup>th</sup> deadline, Ms. Julia Flashner (district 5) and Ms. Roberta Williams (district 11) have filed nomination papers for reelections. Ms. Flashner and Ms. Williams will need at least 10 votes to be reelected to the BCI Board. Ms. Betty Greene (district 1) and Ms. Lila Reid (district 6) have resigned from the Board and will not seek re-election. Therefore, districts 1 and 6 do not have candidates for the election. This issue initiated discussion from Board members as to how to fill the vacancies in districts 1 and 6.

A discussion also ensued regarding the long standing Board vacancy Chinatown. Board members provided several suggestions for filling the Chinatown (district 3) vacancy as well as the district 1 and district 6 vacancies. This Board discussion resulted in the in the following vote.

**Motion:** To direct BCI staff to go forward with BCI elections in the two districts where the incumbent Board members are candidates (districts 5 and 11). In districts where there are no candidates, the polls will not be open and elections will not take place.

By: Mike Foley

Second: Gloria Coney

Recused:0

Abstained:0

Opposed:0

**Motion: Carried**

Mr. Greenidge encouraged Board members to help identify Board members for the vacant districts. BCI staff were asked to provide Board members with maps of the districts.

### **Conflict of Interest**

The Conflict of Interest policy has been reviewed by Attorney Vesper Gibbs-Barnes. A copy of Attorney Gibbs-Barnes recommendations were passed out to Board members. Mr. Greenidge asked Board members to review the policy and contact him or Ms. Coney with concerns so that closure can be bought to the conflict of interest issue.



**BCI Technology**

Ms. Carrington discussed the on going problems with the BCI web site, the EZ information and the client information system. Several Board members offered suggestions for correcting the problems.

At 6:25 PM, staff and guests were excused and the Board entered into an Executive Session.

